THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) The present Chairman - cum - Managing Director of British India Corporation Ltd., was appointed to his post after the then Appointments Committee of Cabinet's approval had been received, although Public Enterprises Selection Board was not consulted. The approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet was received on 5th May, 1991.

Sale of Indira Vikas Patra

1173. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of Indira Vikas Patra has come down drastically during 1990; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to augment their sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dissatisfaction over functioning of the Chief Election Commissioner

1174. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether almost all the national political parties have expressed their dissatisfaction over the functioning of the Chief Election Commissioner, during the elections to the Lok Sabha;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action to streamline the working of the Election Commission to instil greater confidence among the political parties and the general public; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Certain political parties have expressed dissatisfaction over C.E.C.'s functioning.

(b) and (c) Certain electoral reforms pertaining to Election Commission are on the anvil which are contained in the Constitution (Seventeeth Amendment) Bill, 1990 and the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990 which are pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha. However, in view of the happenings in the last general elections, a greater indepth study will also be undertaken for the purpose.

Steps proposed by Empowered Committee to tackle sickness in deep sea fishing industry

1175. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the steps proposed by the Empowered Committee Chaired by Finance Secretary to tackle sickness in deep sea fishing industry;

(b) what steps are being taken to supply fuel at international prices to trawler operators; and

(c) what steps are being taken to rationalise prices of oil for fishing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government, on the recommendation of the Empowered Committee, has announced a revised scheme for the rehabilitation of sick but viable deep sea fishing companies. A copy of the detailed parameters is enclosed.

(b) Government in the Ministry of Commerce have reported that they

have announced, on 31-12-1990, a scheme for making available high speed diesel oil at international prices to deep sea fishing vessels.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration for rationalising the prices of oil for the fishing industry.

Board parametres for rehabilitation of sick but viable fishing companies assisted by the erstwhile SDFC.

(a) All those companies in respect of which liability for payment of interest and/or repayment of the principal amount of the loan had commenced before June 30, 1987, would repay the entire overdues on account of interest and principal repayment as on June 30, 1987 before the commencement of the rehabilitation package. Of the total overdues, an amount equivalent to 10 per cent of the overdues would be payable within a month and the balance 90 per cent within six months of the announcement of the scheme.

(b) In case of the companies where the payment of interest and/or repayment of principal amount of loan had not commenced till June 30, 1987, the concerned company would pay 25 per cent of the overdues as on June 30, 1990, in the same manner as stated in para (a) above.

(c) In cases where companies had not met their obligation to keep the vessels insured and therefor, Government/SCICI have had to restore/continue insurance by paying the premium, the companies applying under this scheme should first reimburse Government/SCICI all such payment with penal interest.

(d) As a part of the rehabilitation package, the penal interest would be waived and interest would be computed at the document rate for the period commencing from July 1, 1987 to June 30, 1991. The interest for the period ending June 30, 1991, thus computed would be capitalised and added to the principal amount of loan.

(e) The Government of India would consider providing additional loan for financing increase in the cost of the vessel on account of exchange fluctuations, in respect of imported vessesis, where the payments to the yards are outstanding, or the vessels are yet to be delivered. The loan amount would be restricted to 90 per cent of increase in cost and would carry effective rate of interest at 8.5 per cent per annum.

(f) Similarly the Government of India would consider providing additional loan to meet the cost of increase in the cost of indigenous vessels, if any, where the payments to the yards are outstanding, or the vessels are yet to be delivered. The additional loans would be restricted to 95 per cent of the cost of the vessel and would carry effective rate of interest at 7.75 per cent per annum.

(g) The Government of India/SCICI would consider providing additional loan to meet the cost of repair of vessels owned by companies availing of this rehabilitation package. Survey (of repairs necessary) and evaluation of repair works will be made by Government of India agencies/SCICI-nominated agencies. Repairs will be carried out at SCICI-approved workshops. The loan will carry interest at 15 per cent per annum.

(h) SCICI would consider providing additional loan for modifications/addition of fishing gear for diversified fishing by the existing trawlers. The additional loan would be 80 per cent of the funds required, net of the subsidy available under the Ministries of Food Processing Industries scheme, and would carry normal rate of interest.

(i) The principal amount of loan, the capitalised interest as mentioned in para (c) above, and additional loans as mentioned in para (d), (e), (f) and (g) above, if any, would be repayable in equal quarterly instalments, commencing from July 1, 1991, during the residual economic life of the concerned vessel. In suitable cases, SCICI may extend the repayment period by a further period of three years upto a total life of 20

per cent years of the vessel. All such cases should be reported to the Empowered Committee. Interest would be payable by the companies on the aforesaid amounts (including capitalised interest) at the respective document rates.

(j) The economic life of the vessel would be reckoned at 17 years from the date of actual acquisition of the vessel by the company, and the residual life would be computed by meeting out the period lapsed from the date of acquisition till June 30, 1991.

(k) The working capital requirement of the company thus rehabilitated would be provided by the concerned commercial banks and the companies concerned would be required to obtain necessary approvals in this regard. However, the Government of India could consider, to the extent funds are available, providing a two-year loan to meet he margin for working capial in appropriate cases.

(l) A company provided rehabilitation assistance under this scheme would have to withdraw all legal cases filed by it against the Government of India and/or SCICI, before the assistance becomes effective.

(m) The company provided the rehabilitation package under this scheme would be required to deposit a percentage of their earnings in a separate bank account every month during the fishing season. The amount thus deposited should be atleast equal to the principal and interest payable by the company during a year.

(n) The company will have to provide adequate security (Personal, Collateral, Bank Guarantee etc.) for incremental loans. The nature and quantum of security will be decided by SCICI on a case to case basis.

The above scheme is without prejudice to the rights of the Central Government and the Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India Limited, the designated person acting on behalf of the Central Government in terms of the SDFC (Abolition) Act, 1986, to proceed against defaulting companies and/or recover the dues of the Central Government. The scheme does not therefore confer or imply any change or remission of any of the action that may have already been initiated by the Central Government or the said designated person or which may hereafter be initiated by either or any of them, which shall continue unless specifically decided otherwise by any or either of the aforesaid authorities.

The deep sea fishing companies interested in availing this package, will be required to submit detailed rehabilitation proposals giving the data as required by SCICI. Mere submission of the proposal however, does not carry any prescription right of their acceptance by SCICI.

Negotiations on Uruguay Round

1176. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether final negotiations on Uruguay Round were held at Geneva in connection with protecting international trade and patents rights and if so, what is the outcome of those discussions; and

(b) whether U. S. Negotiator Ms. Cafla Hills could be persuaded to accept the Indian position as published in the press statement by the previous Commerce Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Uruguay Round was expected to